

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/716,666

Examiner

Jianchun Qin

Applicant(s)

ERISMANN, MARK

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/29/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11/20/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 2/20/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DAVID MARTIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2800

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-29 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12-23 and 26 is the inclusion of the limitation that said chamber comprises free spaces on opposite sides of the string tension head that allow for free movement of the portion between the string tensioning head and the feed aperture and the portion between the string tensioning head and the fixing point, wherein the free spaces extend along a direction of movement of the string tensioning head and allow for the free movement of said portions of the string during movement of the string tensioning head within the chamber. It is this limitation found in each of the claims of the instant application, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 5 is the inclusion of the limitation that the guiding body comprises oppositely arranged slot-shaped recesses, wherein the slot-shaped recesses accommodate movement of the portion and allow for free lateral movement of the at least one tensionable string between the string tensioning head and the feed aperture and between the string tensioning head and the

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fixing point. It is this limitation found in the claim of the instant application, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 7 is the inclusion of the limitation that the at least one guiding sleeve comprises oppositely arranged slots which accommodate the portion. It is this limitation found in the claim of the instant application, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 9-11 is the inclusion of the limitation that at least one slot is formed on an end of the instrument body, wherein the at least one slot communicates with the chamber. It is this limitation found in each of the claims of the instant application, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 24 and 27 is the inclusion of the limitation that guiding recesses are arranged on opposite sides of each string tensioning head, the guiding recesses extending along a direction of movement of the string tensioning heads, and wherein the guiding recesses guide movement of the end areas of the strings during rotation of each rotatable tuning mechanism. It is this limitation found in each of the claims of the instant application, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 25, 28 and 29 is the inclusion of the limitation that guiding slots are located on opposite sides of each string tensioning head, the guiding slots extending along a direction of movement of the string tensioning heads, and wherein the guiding slots guide movement of the end areas of the strings during rotation of each rotatable tuning mechanism. It is this limitation found in each of the claims of the instant application, as it is claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jianchun Qin whose telephone number is (571) 272-5981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jianchun Qin
Examiner
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JQ

August 25, 2005